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Security Information

10 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : Problems of Research in Support of Psychological Warfare

1. The following summary is presented for your information. Subject will be discussed at the PSB meeting on 11 September.

2. Background:

The PSB, as a part of its planning function, recognized the need for intelligence and research data in the formulation of national strategic plans.

3. It was noted that several agencies of government were engaged in some type of psychological warfare, notably Defense, State, and CIA. Considerable research was being done in support of these efforts and the PSB in attempting to coordinate the national psychological effort recognized some inadequacies in the research setup. The most noticeable shortcoming was duplication.

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4. Mr. [REDACTED] was appointed by the PSB to investigate and report on this problem:

a. How can research efforts and money best be channeled to projects which contribute to waging the cold war?

b. How can utilization of results by operational personnel be improved?

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5. The report of Mr. [REDACTED] (copy attached—pages 17 through 25, only, need be brought to your attention) departed from an investigation restricted to research being conducted in support of psychological warfare and concerned itself more with the entire field of social science research, much of which has only an indirect relation to the psychological warfare problem.

6. The report

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6. The report is noteworthy in two respects, however. It points out that: (a) No formal mechanism exists anywhere in the Government for determining what research projects are being undertaken within the Government laboratories; and (b) There is no central index to which an administrator can turn to find out quickly and easily what others are doing.

7. DD/P's interest in research:

Research in support of psychological warfare falls into two main categories: (a) Universal determinants of action. This involves research in the field of pure psychology. It would collate the mass of existing information from the special point of view of psychological warfare operations. It would serve as guidance to the planners of psychological warfare operations by advising them of those psychological factors of a universal nature which motivate people to action. (b) Particular determinants to action. Research under this category could probably be confined to anthropology and sociology. The existing information in these fields would be explored again with the special point of view of the psychological warfare planner in mind to indicate those particular factors such as myths, beliefs, habits, etc., which are instrumental factors in motivating people to action.

8. The broader field of research in the social sciences is of interest to psychological warfare, insofar as it provides a broad background base of information which is useful in the planning and conduct of psychological warfare. The social sciences are of more direct concern to the intelligence community.

9. Some means of central coordination would serve to reduce duplication, point up gaps where additional research is needed, insure better Government utilization of the research product, and familiarize agencies engaged in research with the special needs of psychological warfare. The problem, then, is basically one of establishing a focal point in Government which can serve these purposes.

10. There are certain advocates for establishing this coordinating mechanism as a part of OIR in the Department of State. Current directives assign the responsibility for coordination to State. State's lack of leadership in the research field heretofore has been attributed to lack of money and personnel. The OIC believes that the primary responsibility in this field rests in the State Department's intelligence area. The [redacted] report recommends assignment of this function to the PSB.

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[redacted]
Chief
Political and Psychological Warfare

11 September 1952

ITEM 3

Briefings on Research in the Social Sciences of Use to
Psychological Strategy Board Planning and Operations
(No paper)

Summary: Scheduling of this item in this manner was agreed to at the 28 August luncheon meeting of the PSB. Departmental representatives will brief the board: Mr. Kirkpatrick, State; Mr. Price, Defense; and Mr. Becker, CIA. The discussion is to be based on the four following criteria: (a) Requirements; (b) Agency problems with respect to research; (c) Interdepartmental coordination; and (d) Utilization of the research product.

25X1A Reference may be made to the original investigation of the research 25X1A problem by Mr. [REDACTED]. It is the staff's understanding that [REDACTED] was to submit recommendations with a view to: (a) insuring proper coordination of research activities in support of psychological warfare; (b) eliminating duplication; (c) assigning new research requirements; and (d) insuring full 25X1A use of research by Government departments and agencies. The [REDACTED] investigation departed from a limited study concerned with psychological warfare and extended itself to a consideration of the whole field of social science research, much of which has only an indirect relation to psychological warfare. The staff believes that Government units responsible for planning and conducting psychological warfare in peace or war should determine their research needs and the extent to which these needs are being met. On this basis, the element of central coordination can be introduced.

Recommendation: That you recommend to the Board that the Agency act as a central point of coordination for research, in much the same manner as intelligence is centralized. Such coordination would serve to: (a) reduce

- duplication; (b) point up gaps where additional research is required;
- (c) insure full Government-wide utilization of the research product; and
- (d) familiarize agencies engaged in research of the special needs of
psychological warfare agencies.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

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NO.

DDP-396

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TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
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1.					<p>PLEASE EXPEDITE</p> <p>1) Returned for your files.</p> <p>2) FYI: At the PSB Board meeting, Mr. Kirkpatrick, State, stated that the semi-annual report on PW research by the Federal Government dated 1 July was ready for distribution. He further stated that a card index system is kept which lists the research under 5 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. By institution b. By individual c. By geographical area d. By subject matter e. By completion date. <p>FRZ</p> <p>W-7104</p>
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